

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussions respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-20 and 33-34 are pending in the present application. Claim 34 has been added, claims 3, 9 and 21-32 have been canceled, and claims 1, 4, 8, and 18-20 have been amended by the present amendment.

The enclosed claims are amended based on the discussion with the Examiner. In more detail, independent claim 1 was amended to include all of the subject matter recited in dependent claim 3, and independent claim 8 was amended to include all of the subject matter recited in dependent claim 9. Independent claim 18 was amended in a similar fashion. Further, new claim 34 has been added and corresponds with changes made in dependent claim 19.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted this application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

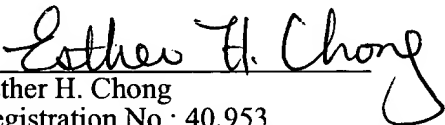
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau, Registration No. 42,325, at (703) 205-8072, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant